

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Claim 8 is deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 8 has been amended herein to independent form and should be allowed.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended herein to clarify the claimed invention. Also claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include certain features of claims 2-4. No new matter is entered.

Priority

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 for the Japan application of 2000-359296 filed 11/27/2000. Certified copies of the priority documents were filed in concurrently with the filing of the present application. It is respectfully requested that the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and receipt of the priority documents be acknowledged.

Applicant also submits herein an English language translation of the priority document together with a statement as to the accuracy of the translation. Applicant relies on the priority date of November 27, 2000.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by Wakayama (U.S. 2001/49739). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wakayama.

The Wakayama reference has a US filing date of February 12, 2001. Applicant relies on the priority date of November 27, 2000. It is respectfully submitted this rejection is traversed.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Rekhter (U.S. 6,339,595) in view of Burns et al. (U.S. 6,757,298).

Applicant's claims include features in which an edge router which creates an MPLS packet using a VLAN packet supplied from a VLAN access network and transfers it to the MPLS core network. In addition an edge router which creates an VLAN packet using an MPLS packet supplied from a MPLS core network and transfers it to the VLAN network.

Applicant's claimed invention includes a unique combination of features which would not have been obvious in their combination:

a core network of the VPN formed by an MPLS (Multi-Protocol Label Switch) network; access networks formed by VLANs to access said core network; and edge routers provided at edges of the MPLS network for interfacing said MPLS network and the VLANs.

Burns discloses a network system in which VLAN is used as an access network and an ATM network is used as a core network.

In Rekhter (Fig. 1) a packet is transferred via the Service Provider on the internet. Rekhter discloses an embodiment that transfers a packet via an ATM network in Fig. 7.

However, neither of Rekhter nor Burns disclose an embodiment that transfers a packet using MPLS network as a core network. In contrast applicant's claimed invention provides for transferring a packet using an MPLS as the core network.

It is respectfully submitted that an edge router which creates an MPLS packet using a VLAN packet supplied from a VLAN access network and transfers it to the MPLS core network; and an edge router which creates an VLAN packet using an MPLS packet supplied from a MPLS core network and transfers it to the VLAN network, is not taught by Rekhter and Burns.

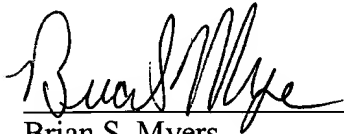
For at least the forgoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian S. Myers", written over a horizontal line.

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